

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1040

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2015

Malnutrition in Children

Kher Smt. Kirron

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- whether Government has released the budget allocation under the schemes to check malnutrition in the country;
(b) If so, the details thereof, alongwith their impact in tackling malnutrition amongst children ;
(c) whether the modernization in the food programmes for children has taken place and training programme for healthy workers has been updated ;
(d) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(e) the measures taken by the Government to address these problem?

Answer

MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) & (b) The Government is implementing Supplementary Nutrition Programme under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme for holistic development of children below 6 years of age. The programme envisages tackling malnutrition by bridging the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowance and Average Daily Intake of children. ICDS is a self-selecting scheme and Central share of the funds are released to the States/UTs for providing Supplementary food for 300 days in a year to the beneficiaries enrolled at the Anganwadi Centres. According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-3 (2005-06) carried out by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, 42.5% children under 5 years of age are underweight, 48% are stunted and 19.8% are wasted. However, as per the Rapid Survey on Children (RSoC), 2013-14, commissioned by Ministry of Women and Child Development, there is a reduction in underweight among children under 5 years of age from 42.5% in NFHS-3 to 29.4%, stunting from 48% in NFHS-3 to 38.7% and wasting from 19.8% in NFHS-3 to 15.1%. A statement showing budget released to States/UTs for SNP during the last three years and the current year is annexed.

(c) to (e) The Food and Nutrition Board under the Ministry, through its 43 regional field units, is engaged in conducting training programmes in nutrition in addition to advocacy towards generating awareness through nutrition education programmes on the importance of healthy balanced diets especially through the use of locally available foods, mass awareness campaigns and use of electronic and print media. The aim of these activities is to improve nutritional outcome and bring down the level of malnutrition in the country especially amongst women and children.